



IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3, 5, 6 and 10 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9 and 19 as follows:

1. (Amended) A chain guide comprising:

a bracket adapted for being secured to an associated engine, said bracket comprising a support surface defining an aperture, a bracket leading end and a bracket trailing end spaced from said bracket leading end in a chain movement direction;

a guide blade comprising a blade leading end, a blade trailing end spaced from said blade leading end in said chain movement direction, a chain guide surface adapted for slidably supporting an associated chain moving in said chain movement direction, and an inner surface positioned on said support surface of said bracket, said guide blade selectively movable slidably on said support surface in said chain movement direction and a direction opposite said chain movement direction between a first position where said guide blade is separable from said bracket and a second position where said guide blade is fixedly secured to said bracket, wherein said blade leading end wraps around said bracket leading end and defines a space that receives said bracket leading end when said blade is positioned in said second position; and,

a male connector comprising a leg projecting outwardly from said inner surface and an enlarged end connected to said leg at a location spaced from said inner surface, wherein said aperture defined in said support surface of said bracket comprises a first portion conformed and dimensioned to accommodate passage therethrough of said leg and said enlarged end, and a second portion spaced in said chain movement direction from said first portion, said second portion conformed and dimensioned to allow passage therethrough of said leg and to block

passage therethrough of said enlarged end so that when said guide blade is moved from said first position to said second position and said male connector is moved from said first portion of said aperture to said second portion of said aperture, said support surface of said bracket is located between said inner surface of said guide blade and said enlarged end, and said enlarged end is engaged with said bracket to prevent movement of said inner surface of said guide blade away from said support surface of said bracket.

2. (Amended) The chain guide as set forth in claim 1, wherein said guide blade comprises a one-piece construction of plastic material.

3. canceled.

4. (Amended) The chain guide as set forth in claim 1, wherein said bracket leading end defines an open notch, and wherein said guide blade includes a hook-shaped portion that defines said space, said guide blade further comprising a rib that at least partially spans said space defined by said hook-shaped portion whereby said rib is received in said open notch defined by said bracket leading end when said bracket leading end is received in said space defined by said hook-shaped portion of said guide blade.

5. canceled

6. canceled

7. (Amended) The chain guide as set forth in claim 1, wherein, when said guide blade is located in said second position, said leg of said male connector is located in said second portion of said aperture and engaged with portions of said support surface defining said aperture so that said leg is restrained against movement in a direction transverse to said chain movement direction.

8. withdrawn (non-elected)

9. (Amended) The chain guide as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:
a locking nib formed as a one-piece construction with said guide blade and projecting outwardly from said inner surface thereof between said blade leading end and said male connector, said locking nib located so that it projects into said aperture defined by said support surface of said bracket and engages said bracket to inhibit sliding movement of said guide blade from said second position to said first position.

10. canceled

11. - 18. withdrawn (non-elected)

19. (Amended) A chain guide comprising:

a bracket adapted for being secured to an associated engine, said bracket comprising a support surface defining an aperture, a bracket leading end and a bracket trailing end spaced downstream from said leading end in a chain movement direction;

a plastic guide blade comprising a blade leading end, a blade trailing end spaced downstream from said blade leading end, a chain guide surface adapted for slidably supporting an associated chain moving in said chain movement direction,

and an inner surface positioned adjacent said support surface of said bracket, said guide blade selectively movable slidably on said support surface between a first position where said guide blade is separable from said bracket and a second position where said guide blade is fixedly secured to said bracket, said guide blade comprising: (i) a hook portion defined at said blade leading end that engages and wraps around said bracket leading end when said blade is located in said second position; (ii) a male connector projecting outwardly from said inner surface at a point located downstream from said hook portion and that is received in said aperture defined by said bracket when said guide blade is in said first position and that engages said bracket and prevents separation of guide blade inner surface from the support surface of the bracket when said guide blade is moved to said second position from said first position; and, (iii) a locking nib defined as a one-piece construction with said guide blade and projecting outwardly from said blade inner surface upstream from said male connector, said locking nib projecting into said aperture of said bracket when said guide blade is located in said second position and inhibiting movement of said guide blade to said first position.

20. withdrawn (non-elected)

21. withdrawn (non-elected)